



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 28.15 Thursday, April 14, 2022

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

F R E E



The ceremonial ribbon-cutting of the Belleville Area District Library took place Saturday before a crowd of library supporters. From left are library board members Linda Priest and John Juriga, library director Mary Jo Suchy, board chairperson Sharon Peters, board secretary Alma Hughes-Grubbs, board treasurer Tanya Stoudemire, and vice chairman Mary Jane Dawson. Board member Joy Cichewicz was absent because her husband had emergency surgery. This grand opening was delayed for two years because of COVID. The library first opened its doors in February 2020 and then had to close them two weeks later because of the coronavirus mandates. Among those present to celebrate the official opening Saturday were elected officials from the tri-community, the school superintendent, a congresswoman, a judge, Friends of the Library members, former library board members, and regular library users, along with Librarian of Michigan Randy Riley.



Independent photos by Rosemary K. Oztman

Part of the crowd at Saturday's ribbon-cutting at the library is shown witnessing the special community event.

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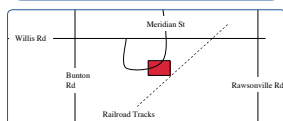
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

VBT board approves up to \$458,294 to fix Haggerty

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Repaving and widening to three lanes of Haggerty Road between Ecorse and Van Born may be placed on Wayne County's list of projects for next year, following a 5-1 vote of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees at its April 5 meeting.

The board approved committing funds of up to \$458,294, which is 8% of the total estimate of the \$5,728,673.63 county project. Trustee Kevin Martin voted no, stating the township should not pay anything for the road project which is the county's responsibility.

At its March 15 meeting, three trustees voted against the proposal, which at that time would have cost 10% of the project, some \$572,867. The vote was 3-3 and so failed. Trustee Sherry Frazier was absent.

Supervisor Kevin McNamara came back with a new, lower proposal for the April 5 meeting. This time, Trustee Frazier was present, but Clerk Leon Wright was absent.

The board discussed the proposal for about 20 minutes during the work/study session before the regular meeting.

Besides widening Haggerty to three lanes between Ecorse and Van Born, a half-traffic light will be installed at the half-mile point between the two roads, and the intersections at the north and south ends will be widened to five lanes.

Estimated costs based on the plans are:

- Construction cost - \$4,774,639.32;
- Design engineering - \$237,838.41;
- Construction engineering (15%) - \$716,195.90; and
- Total project cost - \$5,728,673.63.

Wayne County was scheduled pay \$4.3 million and Ashley Capital, which has huge developments in that area, is adding \$1.4 million to hit the \$5.7 million total.

Dan Power, director of building and planning, said the project will synchronize with the water department's construction to change the 12" cement sewer to a 16" ductile iron main to service the businesses in the area. Doing the projects simultaneously will save the township money because that project will be bid out with the road project.

Director Power presented information on Canton Township's longtime sharing of costs with the county for roadwork. He also presented information from Lyon Township and White Lake Township in Oakland County.

Supervisor McNamara got a list of 100 roads set for Wayne County work over the next two years and Haggerty isn't on the list. Actually, only the worst ten will get the money from that list. He said someone found Haggerty on a county list and it was number 82.

Supervisor McNamara said the reason Canton had to put money into its roads was because it had so many people.

Trustee Reggie Miller, who had voted against the project on March 15, asked where the money would come from for this and what improvement are a part of this new agreement.

Treasurer Sharry Budd responded: "Two percent. That's a lot."

Supervisor McNamara said a lot will be saved by bidding the roadwork and sewer work together and ductile iron is expensive.

He said the money will come from wherever the board tells him to get it, but he is recommending the landfill fund. He said the landfill is having another record year and money is coming in over estimated numbers.

"We're not giving the people's taxes away," McNamara said.

Trustee Martin said the income from the tipping fees is not extra money. He said it's wrong to use the township's money on what isn't Van Buren Township's responsibility.

McNamara said there are only two entries to the township from the north.

Trustee Miller asked McNamara if he had talked to any of the businesses along Haggerty who would benefit from the road upgrade. At the last meeting, board members suggested they might like to help with the cost, if asked.

"Yes," McNamara said in reply. "I won't tell you what they said."

He said after the vote to approve, the township would be locked into the deal. He said they have to have paperwork in to the county by noon the next day. He said the deal is not completely vetted by Wayne County. They didn't want to spend time on it if the township wasn't committed.

"Haggerty Road needs to be paved and I don't think the township should pay for it," Trustee Miller said.

"I'm not yelling 'yea' over this," McNamara said. "It's something that needs to be done."

Director Power reported a comment from Steven Darke on the Zoom link that said he supports the township supporting Haggerty Road and he added that they could help with the paving of Morton Taylor Road, as well.

When the Haggerty Road item came up at the end of the regular meeting, Director Power referred to Haggerty as an "almost hazardous, two-lane road that is the gateway to the township."

McNamara said there are two entryways from the north and if it isn't widened now it will probably have to wait until 2028 when it's on the program for reconstruction.

He said people are coming to Van Buren Township because Canton is getting too

many people.

"Haggerty Road is an atrocity," Trustee Martin said, adding he doesn't think the township should pay for it. He said in the past when people come to the township to complain about a road, they have been told the township couldn't do anything about it because it was a country road and it's the county's responsibility.

He said the township will be using the tipping fees to cover the project. He said the landfill furnishes 25% of the township's revenue. He said the Community Center project is \$16 million and the township will have to bond for that.

"I'm not a steward of Canton's money," Martin said. "Canton can do whatever they want." He noted on that evening's agenda was an increase in engineering fees.

"I'm in favor," said Trustee Frazier. "It's a necessity. We have to get it done as soon as possible."

The roll-call vote was taken with Martin's no vote.

In other business at the 54-minute regular meeting the board:

- Approved adjusting the planning commission meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, as requested by the commission;

- Approved a change to the Neumann/Smith Architecture contract fee for the Community Center design that was 7.8% and was renegotiated to 6.15% (and brings them an additional \$190,747 because the project was enlarged). Also, the Plane Moran Cresa agreement term was extended from March 31, 2023 to conclude on Nov. 30, 2023, and the fee of \$10,000 per month was increased to \$14,000 per month due to increased project scope from the original agreement. The Community Center has a project budget of \$16 million and is expected to be complete in December 2023. The budget has a 17% contingency instead of the usual 10% because of the building supply climate;

- Approved the second reading and final adoption of the amendment to the sidewalk ordinance. Township engineers will be out to mark parts of sidewalks that need replacing in Haggerty subdivision and then there will be a meeting with homeowners to plan replacements. Homeowners will pay for the work and can take up to five years. A future policy change may reduce that to three years;

- Approved the 5% increase in hourly rates for the township's engineering contractor, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, Inc. This is the third rate increase since the township began working with them in 2017;
- Unanimously approved the selection

of Pioneer Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance for the 2022-24 lawnmowing maintenance services for \$434,400. The low bidder was Brantley Development at \$376,445 and Stanley Brantley, who lives in Van Buren Township, spoke at length at the end of the work/study session explaining why he felt he should have been granted the contract. The discussion showed the problem was on both his side and the township's side with the way the on-line bidding was presented and handled. He was the only one of the six bids that was on-line and he did not attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting because he didn't know about it. McNamara said they could rebid, but board members said it was too late in the season for that and changes would be made before other bidding. Brantley was a township planner for 15 years and started his own business 15 years ago. He had recommendations from MDOT, City of Dearborn, and City of Rochester Hills. Board members encouraged him to apply again in the future;

- Awarded the contract for paving repairs in the Walden Woods, Robinson River, Andover Farms, and Charter Club subdivision to GV Cement and approved construction engineering services at the recommendation of the township engineer. The total estimated cost for cement and engineering is \$527,441.40. The township is participating in Wayne County's Local Road initiative program and will reimburse up to \$375,000 or 80% of the cost. The homeowners' association have agreed to contribute \$152,441.80 (28.9% of the total costs) and Wayne County will reimburse the township for the remaining \$375,000. Trustee Martin abstained from the vote because he lives in Charter Club subdivision;

- Approved the special land use request of Applebee's restaurant at 10526 Belleville Rd. for a 11'x14' "To Go" booth for online and pickup orders, as recommended by the planning commission;

- Approved a personal services agreement for Donae' Hubbard as the new Election Specialist. She was hired in July 2019 as a temp and then hired full time and served as Interim Election Specialist; and

- Heard McNamara announce that southbound Haggerty was closed between Tyler Road and the I-94 North Service Drive as of April 4 as Wayne County completes the roadwork it started last year.

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OPINIONS

Editorial

More school resource officers?

Belleville Police Sgt. Kris Faull is the only school resource officer assigned to the Van Buren Public Schools. She was present at the recent incident where a student brought a gun to Belleville High School. She searched and found the gun where the student hid it in a neighbor's yard off the school grounds. She is the one who is called when things go wrong at the middle school and other school locations. Is it time for the community to demand more school resource officers to protect their students?

The Van Buren Public Schools reimburses the city \$40,000 every year for its school resource officer, which is less than half the officer's cost to the city. There used to be two school resource officers, with one from Van Buren Township PD. Then, the need for school resource officers was reevaluated by Supt. Van Tassell.

At Monday's three-hour budget workshop, the Belleville City Council heard City Manager/Police Chief Robinson state more school resource officers were needed in the schools because of the number of students. He said he brought that up to the VBT supervisor and the school supt. He said the schools would like DARE programs for fifth graders, but Belleville has just nine officers and can't do it. He said the neighboring communities have more officers. Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt said they probably need one full time at the high school and one each at McBride and Owen.

"It's in our backyard," Mayor Kerreen Conley said of the high school. "But most are not ours."

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

I received an early Mother's Day gift last week. It was raining and Amazon did not put a delivery in the back-door box we provided but left the cardboard box out in the rain. The box got wet and my sons decided just to give me the present now.

It is a globe (which wasn't wet) and I love it. I have no idea why I didn't buy us a globe years ago. With everything going on in the world, a map doesn't tell the whole story. I want to know what the location is near and if it's in the same latitude as Michigan, for weather questions.

The globe has bumps where the mountains are. So neat. Thank you to my sons, Bill and Jim, for the globe.

Library Director Mary Jo Suchy announced at Tuesday's meeting that the library's microfilm reader and printer in the local history room have become obsolete and parts and toner are no longer available.

A new reader and printer are on the way. She said technology has made major strides since the last microfilm reader was purchased for the library in 2005 by the Belleville Rotary Club's Charles B. Cozadd Foundation. "It will allow us to embark on future digitization projects," she said.

The library and Rotary have recorded all the *Belleville-Area Independent* newspapers from the very beginning and made them available with the microfilm reader. They also did the *Belleville Enterprise*, *The View*, and other papers. What a great service to the community.

They stopped recording the *Belleville Enterprise* when it ceased to be a local paper and was one of seven papers within one. Only one part of one page in *The Eagle*



has any Belleville news now, if any at all.

When I was growing up in Van Buren Township our local paper was the *Enterprise* and all of us aspiring young writers were able to write columns for that paper.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Belleville Area District Library on Saturday was a lot of fun because there was a gathering of people from many different groups in the tri-community all together in one big crowd.

These people usually aren't in one place all at the same time so this was really great. It was a real community gathering. And, nobody, but the library board, had to make a speech or were responsible except for just enjoying the company and being there to support our new library.

Since I've been going to meetings all over the local community for more than 27 years, I knew a lot of people who were present. Many no longer are local residents and some no longer are active in local affairs, but I remembered them and the things they were a part of.

I might have had more fun than anyone else there. In fact, I went home and made a list of all the names of all the people I saw there – and it was long.

At Monday's long budget workshop held by the Belleville City Council, the council members got to talking about Hillside Cemetery and the roads there that need to be

upgraded. The city engineer had estimated that roadwork would cost \$250,000. The cemetery is operating at a deficit now, so they didn't know what to do about that.

Mayor Kerreen Conley suggested they could send letters to those who had loved ones in the cemetery and ask them to donate to help pay for the roads. She said there are other problems at the cemetery, like erosion and ground hogs.

Mayor Pro-Tem Ken Voigt, a retired Belleville police officer, said in the past groundhogs dug up human remains from the 1800s when there were no vaults.

The cemetery is owned by the city, but it is in Van Buren Township.

Councilmembers suggested swapping with Van Buren Township -- the cemetery for the museum. Then, they realized the museum would require a lot of money to run, so maybe they could just give the cemetery to Van Buren Township instead of any swap.

Mayor Pro-Tem Voigt suggested eliminating the roads in the old part of the cemetery to make new grave sites, but he was told that would cut off grave-digging equipment access to that area.



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Letters

The three-minute opinion in Sumpter Twp.

To the editor:

We have a wide variety of folks living in Sumpter Township; good folks, mostly, whose primary goal is to be left alone ... they've got it handled. There are men and women who are either currently or formerly employed in many professions; doctors, mechanics, realtors, plumbers, engineers, private investigators, chefs, artists, technicians, ballerinas, and ball players, etc., most of whom bring a unique and educated point of view regarding some of the challenges and problems the township faces on an ongoing basis.

Some have received accolades and commendations in their chosen fields, and they are experts and most suitable to offer opinions on particular issues, and on occasion they are willing to do so.

If those opinions can be delivered within three minutes, that is. Less than the amount of time it takes to microwave a bag of popcorn.

The three-minute rule, recently adopted by the board, based loosely on "Roberts Suggestions of Order" concocted in the year 1876, only applies to the residents of Sumpter, the taxpayers. Salespersons lobbying for a "piece of the action," a township contract, are exempt from the rule. They can speak, as we've recently observed, for over 20 minutes, with the full attention of the members of the board. If the speaker also happens to fall into that special elite class of "government official," throw the clock out the window, grab your blankets and pillows, there is no time limit at all. This was evidenced when our county commissioner spoke last year for 93 minutes; and for those who paid close attention, the most relevant part of that talk was that which was not said, and that which did not occur.

Perhaps it is all for the better, though, and much more efficient. Why, as a member of the board, should you spend six or seven minutes listening to a resident, when your intention, all along, had been to disregard what he or she had to say, in three.

Randall Miller – resident
Sumpter Township

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Sheena Barnes running for Sumpter Treasurer

To the editor:

Sheena D. Barnes is a candidate for Sumpter Township Treasurer.

Resident for 62 years, born to the late Nathaniel & Louise Barnes, owner of Nate Barnes' Market, serving the community for over 40 years.

I am owner of a small BBQ business serving the community for over 25 years. I have raised three beautiful children. I have been living here in Sumpter Township all of my life. I have always had interest in my community, and proudly creating family events, funding them, and volunteering my services for over 35 years.

I am on the board of the Belleville Council of the Arts (BACA) since 2019. I donated a Jackson Pollock-style painting in the Belleville Library for the next five years. I am also on the committee of Belleville Lake Fest, which is a collaboration of three adjoining communities -- Van Buren, Belleville and Sumpter. And, I have volunteered my services in painting one sculpture in the Big Bass Fish Project, which happily now sits at Five Points in Belleville. I continued to volunteer my services in 2021 for the first Lake Fest festivities in creating a Puppet Pals Station, a hands-on project with the children for the surrounding community serving over 75 boys and girls.

I have been a member of the Southwestern Wayne Democratic Club since 2018.

If I'm elected, I will not have a full-time job working elsewhere, while collecting Treasurer wages. I will be Present and Available in the building fulfilling this Treasurer part-time position. I believe in being Present and Available to ensure the office is running accurately and deposits are made daily.

If I am elected, I will proudly do research for grants for the community and bring family development ideas to our township to better serve residents and children.

I believe to be Qualified is to be Present and Available. But to be Qualified and not to be Present or Available, for me it is misleading residents of Sumpter Township. How can a candidate serve their best to the community if you're elected Treasurer and not there?

Vote for me and I will continue to serve my community to the best of my ability, to be honest and respectful to others around me with an open-door policy. I believe I am your better Candidate for Treasurer.

Vote Aug. 8, 2022, Sheena Barnes for Treasurer.

Sheena Barnes
Sumpter Township

Editor's Note: Because elected Treasurer James Clark died while in office, Vincent Warren was appointed but has to run for election to complete the term through November 2024. This is the only Sumpter Township seat open in the August primary election.

Obituaries



Sandra Leigh Johnson

SANDRA LEIGH JOHNSON

(April 29, 1959 – April 10, 2022)

Sandra Leigh Johnson, age 62, long-time Sumpter Township resident, passed away Sunday, April 10, 2022, at her home, surrounded by family. She was born April 29, 1959, in Detroit, MI, daughter of James & Mabel (Lawson) Testorelli. She enjoyed working with children for many years at Play and Learn, Saline, MI. She loved her family more than anything. She cherished time spent with her daughters and grandchildren.

Sandy is survived by her husband of 43 years, Billy Wayne Johnson; two daughters Tara Marie Johnson of Romulus, MI, and Jenny (Kate) Pearsall of Colorado Springs, Colorado; three grandchildren: Caeleb & Ethan Ray of Ypsilanti, MI, and Layla Rise of Belleville, MI; a brother James (Connie) Testorelli of Belleville, MI; three sisters: Cheryl (Ron) Thomason of Lexington, MI, Jamie (Ron) Neiman of New Boston, MI, and Michelle Higgins of Bradenton, Florida; a sister-in-law Kathy (Rick) Lamb of Belleville, MI; also a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also a daughter Alisha Leigh Johnson-Ray.

Dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. Memorial contributions may be made to the funeral home to help defray expenses and would be appreciated. www.davidcbrownfh.com

BILLY JOSEPH HAMBY

(September 12, 1936 – April 4, 2022)

Survived by his wife Stella of 33 years; sister Lucille; brother Gene Hamby, 5 children, 8 grandkids, 2 great-grandsons. Gathering held April 8 at David C. Brown Funeral Home.

www.davidcbrownfh.com

JOHN 'JJ' JORDAN

(March 25, 1958 – March 19, 2022)

Age 63. Survived by wife Linda; two children, Summer and Shane. He suffered from congestive heart failure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease for many years. Cremation rites accorded. David C. Brown Funeral Home.

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Obituaries



Beth M. Harris

BETH M. HARRIS

(May 23, 1961 – April 3, 2022)

Beth M. Harris, age 60, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Sunday, April 3, 2022, at her home. She was born May 23, 1961, in Boston, MA, daughter of Thomas & Margaret (Linberg) Harris. She grew up in Imlay City, MI, and graduated from high school, class of 1979. She went on to Olivet college where she earned a bachelor's degree. She was a Blood Drive Coordinator for the American Red Cross for 12 years. Beth loved living on Belleville Lake. Riding on her pontoon boat was her "Happy Place." She enjoyed the outdoors, nature, and walks in Crosswinds Marsh. She loved animals, and always had dogs.

Beth is survived by her partner Karyn Flues of 19 years; 3 bonus kids: Kyle (Stf) Davenport of North Carolina, Korie Davenport of Texas, and Kaleb (Ashley) Davenport of Wisconsin; two grandchildren: Brennen & Brooklyn, and two more on-the-way; a good neighbor and friend Audrey; also numerous colleagues, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also her only brother Thomas Harris in January 2022.

To honor her wishes, dignified cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements were by David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a local Humane Society and would be appreciated.

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ANGELIA THOMPSON-FALK

(August 4, 1990 – April 8, 2022)

Age 31, survived by husband David Nicolas Colan Falk; mother Deborah Thompson; grandparents Joseph (Gwendolyn) Thompson; aunt Lisa Abdul-Quddus. Cremation rites accorded. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. www.davidcbrownfh.com



John Robert Mason

JOHN ROBERT MASON

(July 11, 1940 – April 10, 2022)

John Robert Mason, age 81, of Ypsilanti, MI, passed away Sunday, April 10, 2022, at his home. He was born July 11, 1940, in Belleville, MI, son of Harry Joseph & Dorothy (Artley) Mason. He graduated from Belleville High School, class of 1958. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Air Force. John enjoyed working on engines, rebuilding motors, valve grinding, wood working, etc. He loved helping out at Rowe's Produce Farm and helping them fix their equipment. John loved to travel to their winter home in Florida, and naps in the sun!

Mr. Mason is survived by his loving wife Daisie Ellen (Williams) Mason of 60+ years, three sons: Lawrence (Kimberly) Mason of Ypsilanti, MI, Gary (Nancy) Mason, also of Ypsilanti, MI, and Glenn Mason of Lakeland, Florida; grandchildren: Mathew Mason, Justin Mason, Nicole (Rowdy Wilson) Mason, Jessica Mason, and Max Mason; great-grandchildren: Mason Wilson and Madelyn Wilson; bonus grandchildren: Harrison & Delaney Schroeck; a sister Patti (Jerry) Bies of Belleville, MI, two brothers: Jim (Barb) Mason of Traverse City, MI, and Jerry (Naomi) Mason of Higgins Lake, MI; sister-in-law Joanne Mason of Belleville, MI, also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, also a brother Ronald Mason.

Visitation will be 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Friday, April 15, 2022, with a 1 p.m. Funeral Service at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville. Pastor Gordon Moore will officiate. Interment will be in Union-Udell Cemetery, Ypsilanti Township, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association and would be greatly appreciated by the family. A Celebration will be held around his Birthday in July for family and friends to celebrate his life.

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COVID-19 deaths creep up to 130 in 48111, positive tests total 8,962

The total number of people who have died from COVID-19 in the 48111 zip code crept up to 130 as of Monday, April 11, according to figures from the Wayne County Health Department. The COVID-19 death number in the tri-community had been at 128 since March 10 and then on April 11 there was one more in Van Buren Township and one more in Sumpter Township.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 totaled 8,962 on Monday, April 11, up from 8,931 on Monday, April 4.

On Monday, April 11, the separate totals released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 6,125 positive cases, 87 deaths; City of Belleville, 1,035 positive cases, 13 deaths; and Sumpter Township 1,802 positive cases, 30 deaths.

The Van Buren Public Schools had two positive tests recorded on April 4, one on April 5, none on April 6, two on April 7 and none on April 8. As of April 8 there has been a total of 561 positive cases since the beginning of the school year last August. Deaths, if any, are not reported.

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Obituaries



Mary Ann Graham

MARY ANN GRAHAM

(January 24, 1954 – April 7, 2022)

Mary Ann Graham, age 68, long-time Van Buren Township, MI resident, passed away late Thursday, April 7, 2022, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born January 24, 1954, in Detroit, MI, daughter of Joseph Cerne, Jr. and Martha Rose (Benedict). Mary graduated from Mercy high school, class of 1972. She went on to receive her bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University in Elementary Education and Teaching. She was a special education teacher for Beacon Day Treatment for many years. Mary loved nature, feeding the birds and flower gardening. She also enjoyed word search puzzles and watching Ghost Hunters and dog shows on television. Most of all, Mary loved time spent with her family.

She is survived by daughter Shannon (Doug) Garrett of Westland, MI; son James (Billy Adkins) Vivian of Belleville, MI; three grandchildren: Rachael, Brett, and Justin Garrett; brother Phil Cerne of Livonia, MI; sister Jan Giddings of Saline, MI; her poodle Penny; also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, also her husband Barry Robert Graham on July 18, 2018.

Visitation was 4-8 PM Tuesday, and 10-11 AM Wednesday, April 13, 2022, with an 11 AM Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500.

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Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, April 14 – Keystone Academy School Board, 5 p.m. Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, April 18 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 19 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. workshop, 6 p.m. regular meeting
- Monday, April 25 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.
- Tuesday, April 26 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township board meeting, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 27 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 2 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 3 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 5 p.m. workshop, 6 p.m. regular meeting
- Monday, May 9 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons.



Dennis St. John

DENNIS ST. JOHN

(October 18, 1957 – April 6, 2022)

Dennis St. John, age 64, of Jackson, MI, formerly of Belleville, MI, passed away Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at Henry Ford Allegiance Hospice, Jackson, MI. He was born October 18, 1957, in Belleville, MI, son of Rose Marie Kalasz. He enjoyed the outdoors, camping, fishing, and hunting. Dennis was a member of the North American Hunting Club for many years.

Dennis is survived by three children: Ashley St. John of Ann Arbor, MI, Brandon (Angel) Arnett of Iowa, and Nicole Kuhn of Williamstown, Ohio; grandchildren: Dylan & Elijah Arnett, Siara Rutan and Derrick Kuhn, Jr.; a sister Roseann Miller of Ohio; a brother Mark (Cindy) St. John of Romulus, MI; also numerous extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his mom Rose Kalasz, also a brother-in-law Chuck Miller.

Visitation was 12-1 PM Monday, April 11, 2022, with a 1 PM Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Pastor Dan Robelen officiated. Interment was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Whittaker, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the funeral home to help defray expenses.

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Retired BHS teacher dies while scuba diving in Florida on April 6

Jeffrey Archer, 72, a retired Belleville High School teacher who lived in Ann Arbor, died April 6 after a scuba diving incident in the Florida Keys, according to local police.

Monroe County, FL, Sheriff's officials said he was diving in 95 feet of water off Islamorada in an area called the "drop." He lost consciousness after boarding a commercial diving boat and returning, police said in a news release.

Staff at the Islamorada Dive Center began

CPR, and the US Coast Guard took Archer to Mariners Hospital in Tavernier, where he was pronounced dead at approximately 10:51 a.m.

"Foul play is not expected to be a factor," the release said.

An autopsy was scheduled for April 11.

Archer is the second person to die after diving in the area of Upper Key within a period of several days, following the death of 68-year-old Michael Getz of England on April 3, according to the sheriff's office.

BHS at-home games

• **Thursday, April 14:** Girls JV Tennis vs Stevenson, 4 p.m.; Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs Lincoln, 5:30 p.m.

• **Friday, April 15:** Boys & Girls Track hosting Tiger Relays, 3:30 p.m.

• **Monday, April 18:** Varsity Softball vs Northville, 4 p.m.; JV Baseball vs Salem, 4:30 p.m.; Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs Plymouth, 5:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday, April 19:** Girls Varsity Tennis vs Wayne Memorial, 4 p.m.; Girls JV Soccer vs Fordson, 5:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Soccer vs Fordson, 7 p.m.

• **Wednesday, April 20:** Varsity Baseball vs Fordson, doubleheader, 4 p.m.; Varsity Softball vs Fordson, doubleheader, 4 p.m.

BHS Girls Soccer

• **Tuesday, April 19:** Girls BHS Soccer Team, home game. JV, 5:30 p.m. Varsity, 7 p.m.

• **Thursday, April 21:** Girls BHS Soccer, home game. JV, 5:30 p.m. Varsity, 7 p.m.



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The Belleville Central Business Community presents Flop E. Bunny Candy Hunt this Saturday, April 16, at noon at Victory Park. The candy hunt schedule starts at 12:25 p.m. with toddler to 3-year-olds, followed by the 4–5-year-olds at 12:30 p.m., 6–7-year-olds at 12:45 p.m., and 8–10-year-olds at 1 p.m. April Warner will offer free, framed pictures with Flop from noon to 2 p.m., however donations are welcome. Concessions include pizza, drinks, and a used-book sale with Belleville Kiwanis, DJ Unlimited, Kona Ice, and our local Girl Scouts selling cookies.

This Saturday is the third-annual Splurge Day, from noon until 4 p.m. at Crafted Gift Shop & Beanery on Main Street as owner Carmen and David Stovall invite the public for a day of giving, featuring food, music, silent auction, face painting, a bounce house, and free Easter baskets. The La Taco Reina food truck will be there. The

event is the official kick off of the Jeremy D. Stovall Splurge Foundation to honor the memory of their son Jeremy, who was killed by a wrong way driver in January of 2020. The foundation is a 501 c3 non-profit organization, formed to offer financial and material support to worthy causes, provide uplifting programs, and inspire young minds to succeed, something of what and who Jeremy was to others. The foundation has partnered with Belleville's Guiding Harbor, a program committed to provide nurturing settings for children who are either temporarily or permanently unable to return to their family of origin. There will be many ways to help and to donate at the event. While there, be sure to check out the storewide sale in the gift shop, too. See their ad in today's paper.

The public is welcome to the ninth-annual Art & Garden Show on May 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. hosted by Cheryl Wagner at 47947 West Huron River Dr., Van Buren Township. Artisans will be selling perennial plants, pottery, baskets, flowers, glass, jewelry, oils, watercolor paintings, and more. See their ad in today's paper and call (734) 699-9050.

Resume Writing with Camiel Davenport will be the free program at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 28, at the Belleville Area District Library. Registration is available online or by calling (734) 699-3291. The Friends of the Library announces the return of the annual Book Sale on May 6 and 7 for members from 11 a.m. to noon, and noon to 3 p.m. for the general public on both days. Memberships are available at the sale.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020.

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Photo courtesy of Sumpter Fire Chief Rick Brown

The home at 353 Utah St. in Holiday West mobile home park in Sumpter Township was fully engulfed with flames when fire fighters arrived.

Four cats missing in Holiday West mobile home fire in Sumpter

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

One of the residents tried to rescue the four cats missing in a mobile home fire on April 6 but was unable to do so and got burned slightly in the effort.

Sumpter Township Fire Chief Rick Brown said the residents of the Holiday West mobile home at 353 Utah Street – two adult females, two adult males, and a child -- got out of the home and there were no other injuries.

The four cats are unaccounted for, Chief Brown said.

A resident of the home called 911 at 9:03 a.m. on April 6. Neighbors called as well

when they saw the flames.

The mobile home was fully involved when firefighters arrived and mutual aid for a tanker and manpower was called for from Augusta Township. He said there are no fire hydrants in the mobile home park, so water had to be brought in.

Chief Brown said it was a defensive fire. They couldn't go inside and all they could do was use water from the outside.

He said Detroit Edison had been working in the park on new mobile homes and the Edison crew immediately went to the fire and cut off the power before fire trucks arrived.

One of the residents worked as a disc



Independent photo by James Otzman

The morning after the fire, the remains are taped off. The four cats were still missing.

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jockey and stored his amplifier and equipment down the bedroom hallway in a room with the door closed. The residents said they smelled smoke and went down the hall and opened the door and said the room was engulfed with flames.

Chief Brown said there wasn't anything suspicious about the fire.

He said the residents had no insurance and so he called the Red Cross to offer them assistance.

Fire fighters cleared the scene at 12:04 p.m., Chief Brown said.

Chief Brown said a broken bolt below the ground on a fire hydrant on Willis Road at the mobile home park entrance cut the pressure of the water down some during the fire-fighting, sending some of the water into the ground. It was marked off with yellow tape after the fire until it was fixed on Monday, April 11.

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City Council considers duty crew for fire department

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

There aren't enough City of Belleville paid-per-call fire fighters during the daytime hours to answer the fire department calls in a timely manner, so the department came up with an idea to fix that.

At Monday's three-hour-and-12-minute budget work shop the city council heard the proposal for a duty crew that would be on duty from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It would start with three days a week and increase to five, if possible.

Fire Chief Brian Loranger said this would be a one-year pilot program to see how it works.

Chief Loranger said this would be the best bet to solve the problem that was brought to the forefront by former Councilman Jesse Marcotte.

He said people have their regular jobs during the daytime hours and it's hard to find people to hire and then require them to get all the training required.

"The best answer is a duty crew," Loranger said.

"Do we have the staff?" asked Mayor

Kerreen Conley.

Loranger said they would try to staff it with Belleville fire fighters first and if that wasn't possible, they could offer the positions to Sumpter or Augusta township fire fighters who are fully trained.

Fire Captain Christopher Zweng said their home departments would be responsible for their training. He said the duty crew wouldn't be able to go over 32 hours and if they were on the crew during the daytime they couldn't go out at night because they would have too many hours.

Loranger said those working three days a week, at seven hours a day, would total 21 hours.

City Manager/Police Chief Dave Robinson said there were hard questions asked of the fire department after the Marcotte incident and they put in the research and came up with the duty crew.

"It would be with added cost, but don't our citizens deserve it? That when they call in the daylight hours, the fire department will be here?" said Chief Robinson, noting if the council has to raise the public safety millage to cover this, it can.

Loranger said during the day when he is at work, his biggest stress is, "Am I going to cover the medical [calls]?" He said when a call comes in, he checks his communications to see if someone is responding and if that person is trained enough to respond alone. "It's my worst nightmare."

Captain Zweng said the fire fighters were at the fire hall the night before and a call came in and they responded within a minute.

Mayor Conley asked if they needed four people, rather than two, for the duty crew, or maybe three because someone may need a vacation.

Zweng said they would have to buy turnout gear for the fire fighters from out of the department. He said for medical runs, it's just a T-shirt and pants. For a fire run they need expensive turnout gear and maybe that can be rented from Sumpter or Augusta until Belleville gets enough.

Loranger said the duty crew would just not sit around the fire house, but there would be lots for them to do, including

(continued on page 17)

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More Letters

Sumpter Township employees work for us

Greetings:

Friends, neighbors, and visitors, my name is Ronald Barrington Robinson. I have lived in Sumpter Township, MI, for 22 years. I'm a college graduate with a degree in political science. I retired from the State of Michigan Department of Corrections with 23 years of seniority as a lieutenant commander with the experience of supervising thousands of inmates and hundreds of staff and protecting hundreds of millions of dollars of state-owned property.

I'm an elected Sumpter Township precinct delegate. Former Vice President of Flint, MI NAACP.

I'm a trustee with the Southwestern Wayne County Democratic Club. I'm a strong advocate and community organizer for the people and Sumpter Township. My greatest joy has been meeting hundreds of men, women, and children on this journey. My goals are to be always honest, have integrity, truths and uphold truths in government.

The present board of trustees' fiduciary responsibility is not a priority like others are supposed to serve us in this township. We cannot change negative behavior or greed, but we can at the ballot box or recall. We must continue to pray and rely on our Christian morals and values. Sumpter Township, MI, is beautiful with thousands of great people.

There is space for anyone that believes in transparency, integrity, fiscal responsibility, and an honest, truthful government -- we don't have that in this township. We have a board and hired selfish help that is mean-spirited, money-hungry, and only concerned about themselves. They don't care about the poor, the elderly, the handicapped, or our children or the people who need coolness on hot summer days or warmth on cold winter nights. To warn them of weather conditions or disasters.

Sumpter is a poor community. Many people don't have phones or the internet. If you object to their so-called leadership, then you become the enemy blasted with lies and negative and false rumors. This board must be removed immediately. I have been an outspoken critic of the present board for years

and the hired help that receives high-money contracts. I have been threatened, have had property damaged, and horses poisoned and killed. I have a \$5,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of those involved in killing one of my horses. Please contact the Michigan State Police or the Wayne County Sheriff if you have information.

These people must be punished.

My friends, you must ask yourself, "does this present board have our interest or this beautiful township in mind?" NO. Our roads, ditches are terrible and people are spending untold thousands of dollars on repairs.

Blight and trash are taking over the township. Why?

We are paying over \$200,000 for three so-called ordinance officers, including their supervisor. These are taxpayer dollars. The employees in this township work for the taxpayers. We, the taxpayers, don't work for them.

The township is proposing a renewal and a new millage. Just say NO to both proposals and any new efforts to expand any more pay raises. In my opinion, this township should outsource our highest-paid positions to the Wayne County Sheriff or the Washtenaw County Sheriff Dept. It would save millions. I've requested the state fire marshal to investigate Sumpter Townships fire hydrant policy. To make sure it is following all laws.

The FBI said public tips are often critical to its investigations and upholding democracy. Anyone with information about public corruption anywhere in Michigan should report it directly to FBI Detroit special agents and analysts at MichiganCorruption@fbi.

gov. If you prefer to do so anonymously, you can call the FBI at 800-CALL-FBI or submit tips online at tips.fbi.gov.

Ronald Barrington Robinson
Elected Township Precinct Delegate
Sumpter Township

Editor's Note: The so-called "increases" in the two public safety mill requests being put on the ballot, just return the mills to the former 1 mill and 2 mills that were approved by voters before they were rolled back by the Headlee Amendment. Also, it's about \$97,000 total for the two ordinance officers in 2021, plus a small part of their supervisor Police Lt. John Toth's salary of \$103,816 could be allocated to ordinance, since he spends most of his time policing.

Birthdays

April 10 – Judy Fruit, Paul Cartwright, Arlivia Chambers, Joe Ballog
April 11 – Judi Pustelak
April 13 – Dorothy Skszek
April 14 – Cathy Ann Sykes
April 15 – Heather McArthur, Lionel Montie
April 16 – Tanny Hester
April 17 -- Jody Gibson Varner, Joyce Adams
April 18 – Vickie Lenhardt, Evan Calabrese, Kollin Sobocinski, Anthony S. Kuchta, Sr.
April 19 – April McGuire, Jennifer Leonard, Dave Sauers

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN County of Wayne,
State of Michigan

Ordinance No.: 03-15-22(1)

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan, held in the Van Buren Township Hall within the Township, on the 5th day of April 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Trustees: McNamara, Budd, Martin, Miller, Frazier and Boynton

ABSENT: Trustee: Wright

It was moved by Trustee Miller and supported by Trustee Budd the following Ordinance be adopted to amend Sec. 74-26 of Article II (Sidewalks) of Chapter 74 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places) to read as follows:

The Charter Township of Van Buren hereby ordains that Section 74-26 of the Township General Code of Ordinances be amended as follows:

Sec. 74-26. - Maintenance of sidewalks and driveway approaches.

- (a) All sidewalks and driveway approaches between the lot line and the street curb, except crosswalks at intersections, shall be repaired and maintained by abutting property owners and shall comply with all requirements set forth in this article.
- (b) All sidewalks within the township shall be kept and maintained in good repair by the owner of the land adjacent to and abutting upon it. If any owner shall neglect to keep and maintain the sidewalk along the front, rear, or side of the land owned by him in good repair and safe for the use of the public, the owner shall be liable to the township for any damages recovered against the township sustained by any person by reason of such sidewalk being unsafe and out of repair.
- (c) The township board may, by resolution, require the owners of lots or parcels to replace or repair sidewalks where the condition of the sidewalks necessitates replacement or repair for public health, safety and welfare. Prior to the adoption of a resolution requiring replacement or repair of sidewalks, notice shall be given to affected property owners and a hearing shall be conducted as provided in MCL 41.288a.
- (d) The department of public services, which may include the township engineer, shall inspect all sidewalks installed or maintained under the terms of this article. Any complaints regarding construction or maintenance of the sidewalks shall be inspected by the department within a reasonable time.
- (e) At the time of the inspection, the inspector shall conspicuously mark the flags of sidewalk needing replacement or repair, and the department shall provide notice to the property owner of the necessity of the replacement or repair and the date of the hearing before the township board. During the time period of

the flags of sidewalk being marked by the inspector and the hearing before the township board, the property owner may replace or repair the sidewalks, but such replacement or repair shall be according to the construction standards established by this article and department policy.

- (f) The resolution by the township board finding the necessity of the replacement or repair shall provide:
 - (1) A finding that the responsible property owners have been given notice of the hearing as required by MCL 41.288a;
 - (2) A description of the flags or portions of sidewalk to be replaced or repaired;
 - (3) A finding of the necessity of the replacement or repair of the sidewalk for public safety reasons;
 - (4) An order directing the township to replace or repair the portions of sidewalk upon the property owner's failure or neglect to replace or repair the sidewalk; and
 - (5) An order directing the treasurer to assess the township's costs for replacement or repair of the sidewalk against the property involved, payable up to an up to five-year period, unless repayment is exempted pursuant to department policy.
 - (g) This section shall not apply to any sidewalk, walk, or ramp that is part of the Iron Belle Trail.

Effective Date

This amendment shall become effective upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Charter Township of Van Buren.

THIS ORDINANCE IS HEREBY DECLARED TO HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN, COUNTY OF WAYNE, STATE OF MICHIGAN, AT A REGULAR MEETING, CALLED AND HELD ON THE 5th DAY of APRIL 2022.

YEAS (in favor of amendment): McNamara, Budd, Miller, Frazier, Martin and Boynton

NAYS (opposed to amendment): None.

ABSENT: Wright

I hereby approve the foregoing Ordinance.

Kevin McNamara,
Supervisor, Charter Township of Van Buren

Leon Wright,
Clerk, Charter Township of Van Buren

Adopted: 04-05-22

Published: 04-14-22

Effective: 04-14-22

BHS Robotics team competes in Woodhaven for last contest this year

The Belleville High School Belle Voxel Bots Team 6615 competed in a FIRST Robotics contest held in Woodhaven last week end with 40 other schools.

After the qualifying rounds, BHS ranked 11th and was drafted by the 7th-ranked team to compete with it for the finals.

Bill Wolters, one of team's mentors, said the team with BHS in it was knocked out of competition in the second round.

Wolters said for BHS there were six mentors, two teachers, and 12 team members, which included the robotics team, the marketing team, and the strategy team.

He said a banquet is planned for the Robotics Team and Varsity letters have been approved.

"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."
- Margaret Thatcher

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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- Ruth Bader Ginsburg

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Township municipality is looking for a full-time Zoning, Ordinance Coordinator. Experience preferred. Please email resumes to: supervisor@augustatownship.org

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 5, 2022

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Zoom Meeting ID for public participation: 894 2765 4392. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Boynton, Trustee Martin, Trustee Frazier and Trustee Miller. Absent/Excused: Clerk Wright. Others in attendance: Deputy Supervisor Selman, Recording Assistant Beaudry, Director of Community Services Renaud, Executive Assistant Dohring, Director of Public Services Luckett, Building and Grounds Superintendent Cardenas, Director of Planning and Economic Development Powers, Human Resources Director Sumpter and an audience of seven (7).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE AGENDA: Supervisor McNamara outlined the items appearing on the agenda.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Miller moved, Frazier seconded to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA: Boynton moved, Budd seconded to approve the Consent Agenda: Board Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2022, Work Study Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2022, Prepaid List of March 17, 2022, Prepaid List of March 24, 2022, Prepaid List of March 31, 2022, Voucher List of April 5, 2022, Outstanding Check List of 2022 and Approval of adjusting the official Planning Commission meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

CORRESPONDENCE / ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS: The southbound lane of Haggerty Road from Tyler until I-94 is closed for construction with an estimated end date in Summer 2022; Ramadan, a month of fasting and prayer for Muslims began on April 2, 2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): A resident expressed their support for the Wayne County- Haggerty Road Project from Ecorse to Van Born.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Miller moved, Martin seconded to approve the Van Buren Township Community Center Accounting and Bid Procedures, Amendment No. 1 to the Neumann/Smith Architecture Contract, and Amendment No. 1 to the Plante Moran Cresa Contract. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Budd seconded to approve the second reading of Ordinance 03-15-22(1) the amendment of Chapter 74 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places) Article II (Sidewalks) to amend Sec. 74-26. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: Boynton, Martin, Frazier, Miller, Budd and McNamara. Nays: None. Absent: Wright. Motion Carried.

Martin moved, Frazier seconded to approve the adoption of the 2022 Individual Hourly Rate Schedule for Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber Engineering. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Budd seconded to approve the selection of Pioneer Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance for the 2022-2024 lawnmowing maintenance services for \$434,400. Motion Carried.

Budd moved, Miller seconded to recuse Trustee Martin from voting due to a conflict of interests on New Business Agenda Item #5: To consider approval of the awarding the contract for paving repairs in the Walden Woods, Robinson River, Andover Farms and Charter Club subdivisions to GV Cement and to approve construction engineering services per the recommendation of the Township Engineer. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Frazier seconded to approve of awarding the contract for paving repairs in the Walden Woods, Robinson River, Andover Farms and Charter Club subdivisions to GV Cement and to approve construction engineering services per the recommendation of the Township Engineer. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Frazier seconded to approve a special land use request by APVB, LLC for a 11' by 14' "To Go" booth for online and pickup orders for the Applebee's Restaurant at 10526 Belleville Road. Motion Carried.

Boynton moved, Miller seconded to approve Resolution 2022-05: Other Employee Benefits. Motion Carried.

Miller moved, Frazier seconded to approve the Personal Service Agreement for Donae' Hubbard. Motion Carried.

Frazier moved, Miller seconded to approve Resolution 2022-06: For Van Buren Township to commit to cover any overage costs of the Wayne County- Haggerty Road Project from Ecorse to Van Born, of up to 8% of the total project cost. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Miller, Frazier and Boynton. Nays: Martin. Absent/Excused: Wright. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved; Martin seconded to adjourn

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
 Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
 Published: April 14, 2022

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MAY 13TH @ 8PM
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SATURDAY, MAY 14TH @ 6PM
LUNCH SPECIALS ~ TUES.-FRI., 11AM-2PM
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WEDNESDAY: AYCE Fish Fry, 4pm-8pm
THURSDAY: 20% Off All Pastas. ALL DAY
FRIDAY: Full Rack Ribs \$19.99. Half Rack Ribs \$15.99 (4pm - Close)
SATURDAY: AYCE Shrimp w/One Side: \$19.99. Add (5) Coco Shrimp \$5. Starts at 4pm.
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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BID INSTRUCTIONS FOR LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES

VAN BUREN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The Charter Township of Van Buren, will receive sealed bids for the landscaping maintenance services at the Office of the Township Clerk, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, MI. 48111 until Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., local time. No Bids will be received after that time.

Bid documents will be available on the Township website; the Office of the Township Clerk, and bidnetdirect.com. Bids will be accepted only on provided forms. Bids must be sealed in an envelope marked "LANDSCAPING MAINTENANCE SERVICES" and submitted to the office of the Township Clerk. Bids will be publicly opened at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

The Charter Township of Van Buren reserves the right to waive any discrepancies or irregularities in the bid. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and is not required to accept the low bid. Bidders should direct questions and correspondence to Hugo Cardenas, Building and Grounds Superintendent, at hcardenas@vanburen-mi.org.

Published: Thursday, April 14th, 2022

City of Belleville Public Notice



City of Belleville

6 Main Street ♦ Belleville, MI 48111-2788
734-697-9323 ♦ Fax 734-697-6837 ♦
www.bellevilleonthelake.com



City of Belleville—Department of Public Services

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If you are interested in applying, please complete and send Employment Application ON THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE WEBSITE Attn: City Manager, 6 Main Street, Belleville, MI 48111. The City of Belleville is an EOE/Veteran/Disabled/LGBT employer.

Publish: March 31, 2022, April 7, 2022, April 14, 2022, April 21, 2022



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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice



VAN BUREN

CHARTER TOWNSHIP

**Charter Township of Van Buren
Annual Cemetery Cleaning Notice**

The Department of Public Services will be conducting its
annual spring cleaning at all Township cemeteries.

**Spring cleaning will begin
April 18, 2022 and run through April 22, 2022**

Receptacles placed on graves such as flowerpots, religious items
and similar objects will be discarded if not removed April 18, 2022

New items may be displayed beginning April 25, 2022

Van Buren Township provides maintenance for the following
cemeteries:

Denton - 49780 Cross St. (Michigan Avenue and Denton Road)
Soop - 49250 Denton Road (South I-94 Service Drive and Denton
Road)
Tyler - 39820 Tyler Road (Tyler and Hannan Roads)
Otisville - 41875 Riggs Road

For additional information contact
The Department of Public Services 734.699.8925

Leon Wright
Township Clerk

Published: April 7, 2022
Published: April 14, 2022
Posted: April 7, 2022

City Council

(continued from page 11)

going door to door to see if they can find other people to serve on the department.

Councilwoman Kelly Bates said they should put notices in the water bills and advertise in the *Independent*.

Chief Robinson said the duty crew can go out and set up smoke detectors in the community and Loranger said they have 120 free smoke detectors available, plus 80 CO2 detectors. Loranger said they could distribute welcome packets to residents.

Chief Robinson said he doesn't want them to become Play Station gurus and just

sit around the station amusing themselves.

Zweng said they could do health screening days and do other things beside sitting in the station, such as growing a vegetable garden on the north side of the station that gets the sun, and painting inside the station.

Loranger said they could do snow removal at the station and cut the grass and blow the leaves.

The fire department was directed to come up with an estimate on how much this would cost so the council could consider it before its annual vote on the public safety millage.

The next budget session was set for 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 1, after the numbers for property taxes are in. The April 13 budget session was cancelled.

On Monday, the council also discussed:

- Raising refuse rates for residents to cover the raise in rates from Republic so the city breaks even. Also, they discussed raising the water rates to cover the new water rates coming from the provider;
- Turning in two of the SMART buses because the city doesn't need three. The operation of the buses is fully funded by the general fund because the previous city clerk didn't fill out the SMART reports as required and the new clerk is starting over with that. Also, the CDBG funds used to be used for senior transportation, but now those funds are being used for other things;
- Replacing the full-time police officer that resigned with a part-time officer who wants that position. This means the department will have to get a new, part-time police officer; and
- Replacing police officer tasers because they are the kind officers are not allowed to carry and they are out of date. Because they are the wrong tasers, the current tasers were taken out of service by Chief Robinson. These tasers were ordered incorrectly by a previous police chief, he said. The basic new tasers cost \$2,500 apiece and \$1,000 more if you add the available bells and whistles. Chief Robinson said they can get new ones for all nine officers or get four and check them out for shifts.

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YEAR ROUND SERVICE BY PROFESSIONALS

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 263 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police last week including the following.

Sunday, April 3:

0003 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0143 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
0241 – civil matter, N. Woodbury Dr.
0254 – welfare check, Water’s Edge Ln.
0427 – civil matter, Rawsonville Rd.
0447 – welfare check, Belleville Rd./E. I-94
1139 – suspicious person/vehicle, Meadows Ln.
1211 – assist other dept., Hannan Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1404 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1412 – mental subject, S. Ponderosa Trl.
1416 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
1449 – civil matter, S. Bellridge Dr.
1541 – larceny from auto, Michigan Ave.
1556 – intrusion alarm, W. Schooner Dr.
1628 – family trouble, Denton Rd.
1741 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1857 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1951 – civil matter, Belleville Rd.
2004 – juvenile complaint, Belleville Rd.
2207 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2306 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
2336 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service
2350 – hospice death, E. Huron River Dr.

Monday, April 4:

0110 – road hazard, Ecorse Rd./Belleville Rd.
0225 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.
0346 – intrusion alarm, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0901 – intrusion alarm, Ashbury Dr.
0931 – intrusion alarm, Rawsonville Rd.
1111 – family trouble, Lake Villa Dr.
1129 – assist fire dept., Lake Villa Dr.
1300 – assist other dept., Maple Dr.
1326 – ordinance violation, Belleville Rd.
1343 – parking complaint, Belleville Rd.
1431 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1447 – ordinance violation, Belleville Rd.
1525 – warrant arrest, Washtenaw County
1542 – property damage accident, WB Michigan Ave. / bypass
1636 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1706 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
1721 – 911 welfare check, Mitchell Dr.
1759 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
1914 – suspicious person/vehicle, Chinkapin Dr.
1916 – domestic, Vernon St.
1922 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
2100 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
2117 – intrusion alarm, Belleville Rd.
2211 – warrant arrest, Savage Rd./Bemis Rd.

Tuesday, April 5:

0240 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
0639 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0703 – intrusion alarm, Patriot Ln.
0832 – larceny, Ecorse Rd.
1014 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Tyler Rd.
1031 – threat, Oak Ln.
1034 – ordinance violation, Marlowe Ave.
1055 – assist other dept., Fourth St.
1126 – assist citizen, Elwell Rd.
1156 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Parkside Dr.

1229 – assist other dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1241 – welfare check, Denton Rd.
1544 – civil matter, Denton Rd.
1544 – assist citizen, Morton Taylor Rd./Van Born
1552 – warrant arrest, Hogback Rd.
1803 – private property/property damage accident, Westlake Cir.
1825 – family trouble, Arthur St.
1911 – welfare check, E. I-94/Haggerty Rd.
1938 – intrusion alarm, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Wednesday, April 6:

0057 – found property/child, Martinsville Rd. / Haverhill Rd.
0146 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
0147 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
0147 – misc. complaint, Tyler Rd.
0631 – motorist assist, Ecorse Rd./Haggerty Rd.
0633 – suspicious person/vehicle, Parkwood Dr.
0806 – suspicious person/vehicle, Ironwood Dr. / Harwood Dr.
0907 – intrusion alarm, Togowtee Pass
0917 – breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.

1021 – warrant arrest, Tyler Rd.
1145 – private property impound, Parkwood Dr.
1306 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1454 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / E. I-94
1520 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1552 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haverhill Rd.
1602 – suspicious person/vehicle, Tyler Rd.
1749 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Haggerty Rd.
1827 – family trouble, Rose Blvd.
1908 – mental subject, Crowley Ave.
2004 – civil matter, Holly Ln.
2047 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
2105 – intrusion alarm, Haggerty Rd.
2210 – noise complaint, Bog Rd./Rawsonville Rd.
2241 – assault & battery, Rawsonville Rd. / S. Grove Rd.

Thursday, April 7:

0012 – traffic offense, Haggerty Rd./Savage Rd.
0613 – lost property/child, Ecorse Rd./Amanda Dr.
0957 – misc. complaint, Maple Dr.
0957 – misc. complaint, Maple Dr.
0957 – suspicious person/vehicle, Van Born Rd. / Hannan Rd.
1035 – road hazard, Denton Rd./Ecorse Rd.
1051 – welfare check, Maple Dr.
1159 – private property impound, Belleville Rd.
1224 – road hazard, Old Denton Rd./S. I-94 Service Dr.

1225 – animal complaint, Bemis Rd.
1521 – suspicious person/vehicle, Chandler Dr.
1626 – assist other dept., S. I-94 Service Dr.
1633 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1810 – juvenile complaint, Rawsonville Rd.
1942 – assist other dept., N. I-275/Ecorse Rd.
2016 – operating while intoxicated, Arlene Ln./Savage Rd.
2030 – assist fire dept., Water’s Edge Ln.
2247 – family trouble, Parkwood Dr.
2250 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Friday, April 8:

0139 – felony assault, E. Schooner Dr.
0220 – domestic, Lake Villa Dr.
0450 – welfare check, Lighthouse Dr.
0638 – larceny from auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0740 – larceny from auto, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0749 – intrusion alarm, Liberty Ln.
0851 – larceny, Red Oak Dr.
0858 – retail fraud, Michigan Ave.
1055 – assist other dept., Denton Rd.
1101 – operating while intoxicated, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1140 – abandoned auto, Cobblestone
1153 – vehicle impound, Parkwood Dr.
1156 – assist other dept., Robbe Rd.
1224 – fraud, Maple Dr.
1230 – assist fire dept., Country Walk Blvd.
1241 – intrusion alarm, Cambridge Ct.
1446 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Ecorse
1633 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1642 – property damage accident, Ecorse/SB I-275

1739 – animal complaint, Bemis Rd.
1831 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1852 – harassment call, Wheeler St.
1936 – 911 welfare check, Thornwood Dr.
1955 – private property/property damage accident, Maple Dr.
2053 – suspicious person/vehicle, Outer Dr.
2120 – property damage accident, E. Huron River
2250 – warrant arrest, S. Huron St.

Saturday, April 9:

0004 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
0040 – suspicious person/vehicle, Stonebridge Dr.
0105 – noise complaint, Maple Dr.
0215 – 911 welfare check, Harbour Pointe Ct.
0332 – intrusion alarm, Van Born
0336 – intrusion alarm, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0439 – 911 welfare check, Country Walk Ct.
0527 – assist other dept., Anna Dr.
1027 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1047 – intrusion alarm, Tyler Rd.
1245 – harassment call, Belleville Rd.
1250 – private property impound, Westlake Cir.
1307 – personal injury accident, E. Huron River
1332 – trespassing, E. Schooner Dr.
1411 – civil matter, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1433 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1642 – fleeing & eluding, Ecorse Rd./Beck Rd.
1656 – malicious destruction of property, Parkwood Dr.

1748 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
2137 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2211 – mental subject, Tyler Rd.
Also on this week’s log are 97 traffic stops, two of which are on the I-94 freeway.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 3:

0005 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
0941 – noise complaint, N. Liberty St.
1004 – suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.
0018 – traffic stop, Savage Rd./Victorian Ln.
0036 – traffic stop, Main St./Fifth St.
0117 – parking complaint, Second St./Charles Ct.
0302 – traffic stop, S. Liberty/E. Columbia Ave.
1159 – suicidal person, N. Liberty St.
1201 – fraud, Sumpter Rd.
1552 – traffic stop, Church St./Second St.
1617 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave./Church St.
1726 – warrant arrest, Middlebelt Rd./Wick Rd.
1735 – traffic stop, Madelon St./E. Huron River
1748 – private property impound, Carmell St.
1749 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. Edgemont Ave. / Robbe St.

1842 – traffic stop, Harbour Pointe Dr./W. Huron River Dr.
2210 – traffic stop, South St./E. Davis St.

Tuesday, April 5:

0618 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
0852 – intrusion alarm, E. Huron River Dr.
0926 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
0926 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
1954 – juvenile complaint, Fourth St.
1429 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.
1608 – traffic stop, Main St.
1633 – traffic stop, Denton Rd.
1659 – disorderly, Tuscan Manor
1942 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Madelon
2157 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.

Wednesday, April 6:

0028 – warrant arrest, Michigan Ave.
0617 – assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
0620 – intrusion alarm, E. Waterbury Ct.
0845 – narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1155 – welfare check, Clarence St.

Thursday, April 7:

0833 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
1200 – private property impound, Carmell St.
1201 – private property impound, Carmell St.
1208 – disorderly, W. Columbia Ave.
2032 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.

Friday, April 8:

0108 – traffic stop, South St.
0247 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1028 – assist fire dept., Menlo Park Dr.
1113 – traffic stop, Madelon/E. Huron River Dr.
1418 – abandoned auto, Estrada/Belle Villa Blvd.
1427 – private property/property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave.
1527 – property damage accident, Main St.
1733 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1839 – traffic stop, Edison Ave.
2122 – property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr./Edison Lake

Saturday, April 9:

1002 – fraud, W. Columbia Ave.
1017 – larceny from auto, Main St.
1106 – misc. complaint, Main St.
1132 – malicious destruction of property, W. Columbia Ave.
1202 – traffic stop, Church St.
1256 – domestic, Carmell St.
1437 – misc. complaint, Fourth St.
1640 – traffic stop, High St./Edison Ave.
1715 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
1744 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr.
1838 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1916 – family trouble, Loza Ln.
2043 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./First St.
2049 – assist fire dept., High St.
2140 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Wexford

There were 26 traffic stops on this week’s log.

“Baseball is 90% mental, the other half is physical.”

– Yogi Berra

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 3:

0035 – suspicious circumstance, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
0057 – follow-up investigation, Martinsville/Dunn
0223 – family trouble, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1327 – assist other agency, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
1337 – juvenile complaint, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1516 – civil dispute, Rustic Ln.
1518 – animal complaint, 51000 bl. Wear Rd.
1749 – animal bite, 46000 Executive Dr.
1936 – 911 hang up, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
2125 – citizen assist, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.

Monday, April 4:

0028 – civil dispute, Edgewood Dr.
0140 – breaking & entering report, Magnolia Dr.
0924 – civil dispute, Nevada St.
1701 – suspicious person, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1916 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Kozma Rd.
2028 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Willis Rd. / Rawsonville Rd.
2252 – noise complaint, Rustic Ln.

Tuesday, April 5:

0343 – citizen assist, Mulberry Dr.
0525 – family trouble, Edgewood Dr.
0714 – family trouble, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1814 – fire dept. assist, 20000 bl. Elwell Rd.
2200 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
2217 – malicious destruction of property complaint, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.
2246 – neighbor dispute, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
2339 – 911 hang up, 42000 bl. Judd Rd.
2349 – noise complaint, Edgewood Dr.

Wednesday, April 6:

0019 – suspicious person, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.
0903 – house fire, Utah St.
1143 – larceny, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.
1258 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1335 – property damage accident, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1419 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1743 – 911 hang up, Washington St.
1752 – follow-up investigation, 24000 bl. Bohn
1758 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Bemis Rd.
2012 – animal complaint, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
2215 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Rawsonville Rd./Wear Rd.

Thursday, April 7:

0419 – fire dept. assist, Hampshire Dr.
1258 – suspicious person, Judd Rd./Clark Rd.
1302 – welfare check, 8500 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1307 – harassment complaint, Nevada St.
1312 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
1357 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

1401 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Clark Rd.
1712 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Willow Rd.
1819 – suspicious circumstance, 5600 bl. Oakville
Waltz Rd.
2036 – larceny, Carriage Ln.
2342 – 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.

Friday, April 8:

0030 – suspicious vehicle, 8500 bl. Meadow Springs Ln.
0303 – suspicious circumstance, Rustic Ln.
0344 – neighbor dispute, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
0812 – fire dept. assist, 49000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0833 – animal complaint, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
1137 – assist other agency, Nevada St.
1421 – animal complaint, 18000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1520 – animal complaint, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1823 – fire dept. assist, Oakville Waltz/Clark Rd.
1904 – fire dept. assist, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
2022 – traffic complaint/hazard, Rawsonville Rd. / Willis Rd.
2051 – follow-up investigation, 51000 bl. Arkona
2149 – property damage report, Georgia St.
2238 – civil dispute, Wayside Dr.

Saturday, April 9:

0046 – noise complaint, Timberlane Dr.
0111 – family trouble, 49000 bl. Willis Rd.
0320 – welfare check, Hampshire Dr.
0509 – mental health call, 23000 bl. Sherwood Dr.
0729 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.
0835 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
0911 – fire dept. assist, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1234 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.

(Continued on page 19)

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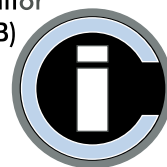


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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 18)

1342 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Fenster Dr.
1908 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Haggerty Rd.

2006 – 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Willow Rd.

2114 – citizen assist, 45000 bl. Dunn Rd.

2151 – warrant arrest, Sumpter Rd./Paris Dr.

2210 – fire dept. assist, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2256 – citizen assist, Nevada St.

Also on this week's log are 111 patrol checks, 80 traffic stops, and four misc. details.

The Easter Bunny came to Sumpter Township's Grant Park on Saturday, courtesy of the Parks and Recreation Commission. At left are Sadie Courtney, in front, and Alivia Bokor. At right is Shianne Courtney. They each received a special bag of candy and toys. This is the Parks and Recreation Commission's first Easter event for children for two years due to COVID.

Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

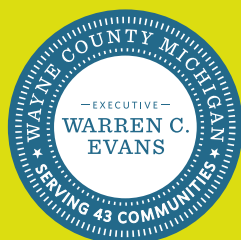
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PENDING

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PLYMOUTH TOWNSHIP

11692 CHANDLER, PLYMOUTH TWP

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NEW LISTING

20218 MARTINSVILLE, SUMPTER

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7242 SADIE , VAN BUREN

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6366 COLORADO, ROMULUS

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1 ACRE + POLE BARN

2057 MOELLER, YPSILANTI TWP

LARGE BRICK RANCH 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths, Large Family Room, Newer Wallside Windows, New Roof, Large Pole Barn with 3 Lots on over 1 Acre. \$264,900

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PENDING

1427 MELVIN, YPSILANTI TWP

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NEW LISTING

PENDING

17417 SULLY DR, SUMPTER

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14000 PEBBLE CREEK PLYMOUTH TWP \$1,000,000 AREA 1.32 ACRES \$295,000

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VACANT LOUISA "DREAM LOT" \$70,000
CORNER WILLIS & MARTINSVILLE
SEWER & WATER 1.64 ACRES \$65,000
WILLIS RD 1 AC SEWER & WATER 60,000

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KARR RD 20 ACRES ZONED AG \$200,000
HAGGERTY 1.5 AC VAN BUREN \$70,000

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44194 ROBSON, VAN BUREN .81 AC \$44,000
VACANT VENETIAN 1/2 ACRE LOT \$60,000
HURON TWP VAC CLARK .74 AC \$40,000
HURON TWP VAC ASH .87 ACRES \$55,000



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